



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

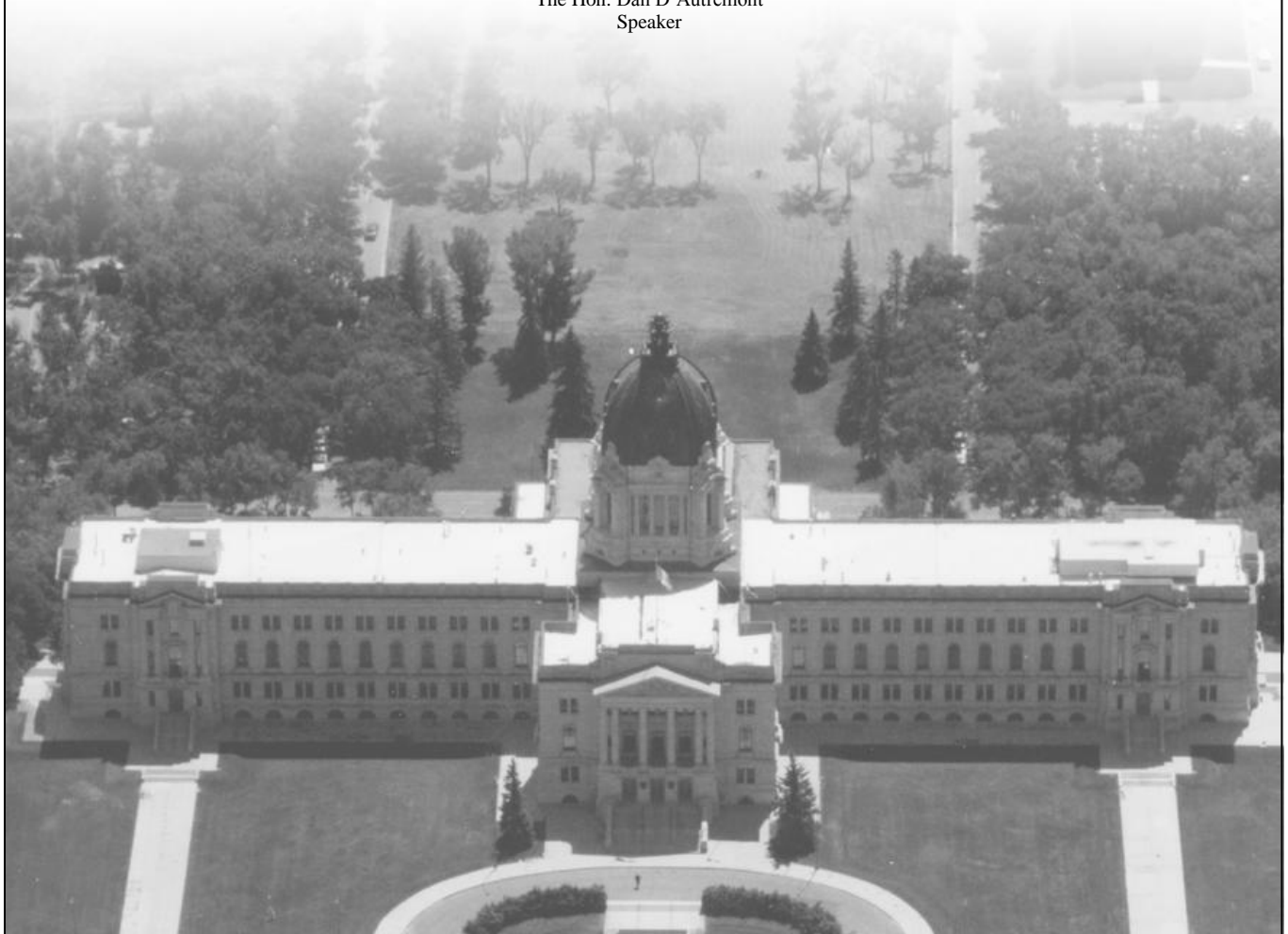
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
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The Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

| <b>Name of Member</b>    | <b>Political Affiliation</b> | <b>Constituency</b>       |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Belanger, Buckley        | NDP                          | Athabasca                 |
| Bjornerud, Bob           | SP                           | Melville-Saltcoats        |
| Boyd, Hon. Bill          | SP                           | Kindersley                |
| Bradshaw, Fred           | SP                           | Carrot River Valley       |
| Brkich, Greg             | SP                           | Arm River-Watrous         |
| Brotan, Cam              | NDP                          | Saskatoon Massey Place    |
| Campeau, Jennifer        | SP                           | Saskatoon Fairview        |
| Chartier, Danielle       | NDP                          | Saskatoon Riversdale      |
| Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken   | SP                           | Saskatoon Silver Springs  |
| Cox, Herb                | SP                           | The Battlefords           |
| D’Autremont, Hon. Dan    | SP                           | Cannington                |
| Docherty, Mark           | SP                           | Regina Coronation Park    |
| Doherty, Hon. Kevin      | SP                           | Regina Northeast          |
| Doke, Larry              | SP                           | Cut Knife-Turtleford      |
| Draude, Hon. June        | SP                           | Kelvington-Wadena         |
| Duncan, Hon. Dustin      | SP                           | Weyburn-Big Muddy         |
| Eagles, Doreen           | SP                           | Estevan                   |
| Elhard, Hon. Wayne       | SP                           | Cypress Hills             |
| Forbes, David            | NDP                          | Saskatoon Centre          |
| Harpauer, Hon. Donna     | SP                           | Humboldt                  |
| Harrison, Hon. Jeremy    | SP                           | Meadow Lake               |
| Hart, Glen               | SP                           | Last Mountain-Touchwood   |
| Heppner, Hon. Nancy      | SP                           | Martensville              |
| Hickie, Darryl           | SP                           | Prince Albert Carlton     |
| Hutchinson, Bill         | SP                           | Regina South              |
| Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi) | SP                           | Wood River                |
| Jurgens, Victoria        | SP                           | Prince Albert Northcote   |
| Kirsch, Delbert          | SP                           | Batoche                   |
| Krawetz, Hon. Ken        | SP                           | Canora-Pelly              |
| Lawrence, Greg           | SP                           | Moose Jaw Wakamow         |
| Makowsky, Gene           | SP                           | Regina Dewdney            |
| Marchuk, Hon. Russ       | SP                           | Regina Douglas Park       |
| McCall, Warren           | NDP                          | Regina Elphinstone-Centre |
| McMillan, Hon. Tim       | SP                           | Lloydminster              |
| McMorris, Hon. Don       | SP                           | Indian Head-Milestone     |
| Merriman, Paul           | SP                           | Saskatoon Sutherland      |
| Michelson, Warren        | SP                           | Moose Jaw North           |
| Moe, Scott               | SP                           | Rosthern-Shellbrook       |
| Morgan, Hon. Don         | SP                           | Saskatoon Southeast       |
| Nilson, John             | NDP                          | Regina Lakeview           |
| Norris, Rob              | SP                           | Saskatoon Greystone       |
| Ottenbreit, Greg         | SP                           | Yorkton                   |
| Parent, Roger            | SP                           | Saskatoon Meewasin        |
| Phillips, Kevin          | SP                           | Melfort                   |
| Reiter, Hon. Jim         | SP                           | Rosetown-Elrose           |
| Ross, Laura              | SP                           | Regina Qu’Appelle Valley  |
| Sproule, Cathy           | NDP                          | Saskatoon Nutana          |
| Steinley, Warren         | SP                           | Regina Walsh Acres        |
| Stewart, Hon. Lyle       | SP                           | Thunder Creek             |
| Tell, Hon. Christine     | SP                           | Regina Wascana Plains     |
| Tochor, Corey            | SP                           | Saskatoon Eastview        |
| Toth, Don                | SP                           | Moosomin                  |
| Vermette, Doyle          | NDP                          | Cumberland                |
| Wall, Hon. Brad          | SP                           | Swift Current             |
| Weekes, Hon. Randy       | SP                           | Biggar                    |
| Wilson, Nadine           | SP                           | Saskatchewan Rivers       |
| Wotherspoon, Trent       | NDP                          | Regina Rosemont           |
| Wyant, Hon. Gordon       | SP                           | Saskatoon Northwest       |

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I have the honour of introducing some women who are leaders and role models in Saskatchewan. Joining us today from the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan is Diane Weighill. Thank you. We also have Ballie Omar. We have Jana Al-Sagheer here, and Ramona Wijesinghe from the Regina Immigrant Women Centre. And last but certainly not least, I'd like to introduce Sharon Baldwin and Thelfa Yee-Toi from the Regina branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women. And with them is Pat Faulconbridge from the Status of Women.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is International Women's Day, a celebration of economic, political, and social achievements of women everywhere. As a female MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and a cabinet minister, I'm proud to help celebrate this important event and I want to thank these six women for setting a wonderful example in the province of Saskatchewan.

I'm going to ask all members to help me join in welcoming Diane, Ballie, Jana, Ramona, Sharon, and Thelfa to their Assembly today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition it is my pleasure to welcome everybody from the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, the Regina Immigrant Women Centre, the Canadian Federation of University Women, and of course Pat from the Status of Women office.

The work that you do in the community and around the province is really important to all of us. I know, as a female legislator, the work that you do informs much of the work that I do or that we do, that we bring to the House. And you serve as great role models.

As we know, this year the theme in Saskatoon is around mentoring, and I know that many of you take that job very seriously in ensuring that younger women or women who are stepping into leadership roles have the support that they need.

So thank you on this, the day before International Women's Day, for all the work that you do. And I ask all my colleagues to join with me too, and the minister, in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and to the rest of the Assembly I'd like to introduce guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker: Marilyn Braun-Pollon, vice-president of Prairie and Agri-business with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; and her associate, Shannon Lussier, business counsellor for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Ms. Braun-Pollon serves as a government relations and media spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business's 5,250 members here in Saskatchewan. They are here today to join with us in the introduction of Bill 86, *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*, our red tape reduction bill, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like all members to welcome these folks to the Assembly here this morning.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to also welcome the people from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. We have relied on their advice and information over many years, both in opposition but also when we're in government. And I know that the work that we're going to be seeing in the bill today will build on work that's been happening for many years within government to make sure that you look at the regulations and rules that are there. But I want make a special point of welcoming Marilyn, as she and I share many long-term characteristics. And she'll have to explain that for us.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in relation to cellphone coverage, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

To undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure SaskTel delivers cell service to the Canoe Lake First Nations, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nations, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nations, also known as Patuanak, along with the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nations as well as the community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in each of these areas.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition are from all throughout the province. We want to thank them for their support. But especially the amount of people that have signed the petition that I'm presenting from these communities is certainly impressive. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I present the petition. Thank you very much.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

### International Women's Day

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to recognize International Women's Day taking place tomorrow, March 8th.

The official United Nations theme for this year's International Women's Day is, A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women. This theme is particularly important in Saskatchewan with the recent release of a report from Statistics Canada which shows that our province has approximately double the national rate of violence against women — absolutely unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

It's important in light of this report too, to thank the staff and volunteers at Saskatchewan's 14 crisis shelters and five second stage shelters throughout the province that work tirelessly on behalf of the women and children who are impacted by violence. Their leadership in communities reflect the caring Saskatchewan that we are so proud to be a part of.

International Women's Day is also a time to reflect on the gains that women have made throughout the years. Women continue to enter into non-traditional fields of work and increase their participation in political and public life, but we still have much work to do.

I would like to ask all members of this House to join in acknowledging International Women's Day and thanking the staff and volunteers of the transition houses throughout the province for their dedication to and their advocacy on behalf of the women and the children in our province. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to advise all members that tomorrow is International Women's Day. International Women's Day is observed on March 8th to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women everywhere. In Saskatchewan, this year's theme — Women as Mentors: Building Leadership Together.

Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day is an important opportunity for us to celebrate the many accomplishments of women in our province. For example, we know that women are playing an increasingly important role in the economic growth of Saskatchewan. According to a report by *Sask Trends Monitor* from last April, we know that the 71.7 per cent employment rate in Saskatchewan for women aged 15 to 64 is well above the national average of 68.9 per cent. And more and more of these working women are assuming leadership roles in their respective organizations.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in every corner of this province, women are working together to share their knowledge, build their businesses, lend their voices to boards and committees, and help our province grow. Their contributions are helping to make Saskatchewan the best place to live, to work, to raise our families.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in recognizing International Women's Day. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

### Remembering a Canadian Music Icon

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The girls are out to Bingo and the boys are gettin' stinko,  
And we think no more of Inco on a Sudbury Saturday  
night.

Mr. Speaker, those are the famous lyrics of a Canadian icon country folk legend, Stompin' Tom Connors. My good friend and Canadian performer Gordon Stobbe often described Stompin' Tom, whose songs and lyrics are part of the Canadian fabric, as the Shakespeare of Canada.

Stompin' Tom was a patriot who spent his life listening to the experiences of everyday Canadians and shared those stories through music. Connors was born on February 9th, 1936, in St. John, New Brunswick, but spent the majority of his life touring throughout Canada. And he died Wednesday, yesterday, at the age of 77.

In his own last letter to fans, Stompin' Tom described his journey as:

It was a long hard bumpy road, but this great country kept me inspired with its beauty, character, and spirit, driving me to keep marching on and devoted to sing about its people and places that make Canada the greatest country in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my fellow members to take a moment to remember Stompin' Tom. I would encourage each member to take some time to listen to "Bud the Spud" or "The Hockey Song" or any of the iconic songs that Stompin' Tom wrote, and remember the incredible love he had for his country. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Stompin' Tom Connors for the gift of his music and his dedication to the people of Canada.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Batoche.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the Assembly to honour the Canadian icon, Stompin' Tom, who sadly passed away yesterday. Stompin' Tom was a Canadian country folk legend that was well known to so many Canadians, especially hockey fans. His icon hockey song was often heard playing over the sound system at NHL [National Hockey League] games across the country, getting both fans and players excited for the game.

Mr. Speaker, Stompin' Tom now has 61 recorded albums, 10 of which have yet to be released to the public. His songs will continue to be made available worldwide and remain a legacy to his career, his life, and his beloved country.

Mr. Speaker, his astounding accomplishments also include receiving the Order of Canada, both the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and he was the subject of a postage stamp in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Assembly to join me in honouring this great Canadian and offering condolences to his family, friends, and fans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

#### Nurse Leadership Conference

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week nurses from across Saskatchewan are taking part in a conference to discuss leadership in the nursing profession. This includes registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, and licensed practical nurses. They work at all levels within the health system, from front-line caregivers to managers, educators, and policy-makers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend these nurses for participating in this conference. I believe it offers them a great opportunity to learn more about their leadership role in the changing health care system.

Mr. Speaker, nurse leadership is vitally important if we want to succeed in transforming our health care system. Today we have a shared commitment to support the principles of better health, better care, better value, and better teams. Mr. Speaker, I can't stress enough the valuable role that nurses play in the health care team in Saskatchewan and providing quality care for Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in thanking our nurses for their ongoing contributions to the health care system in this province, and I wish them the best at their conference. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina South.

#### Entertainer Honoured for Contributions to Province

**Mr. Hutchinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize entertainer, actor, and humanitarian, Mr. Bob McGrath, who was presented with the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award in Saskatoon on February 28th.

Mr. McGrath is well known everywhere for his role on the cast of Sesame Street, but is also an icon right here in Saskatchewan for his many years of charitable involvement with Kinsmen Telemiracle. Through his work hosting Telemiracle 36 times, Mr. McGrath has graciously assisted thousands of Saskatchewan individuals, families, and organizations by helping it to raise nearly \$100 million. Mr. Speaker, his work has had a huge impact because these funds enable Saskatchewan people to acquire special needs equipment that improves their quality of life greatly.

The Premier presented Mr. McGrath the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes non-residents of the province who have made outstanding contributions to Saskatchewan and the development of the provincial economy, culture, and our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Assembly recognize Mr. McGrath's distinguished service to the people of this great province and to

thank him for all that he has done for Saskatchewan's most vulnerable citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

#### Yorkton Receives Sustainable Community Award

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise in this Assembly today to recognize and applaud the city of Yorkton on receiving an award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The city of Yorkton received the Sustainable Community Award that recognizes projects that demonstrate environmental responsibility and excellence in best practices as it relates to sustainable community development.

Yorkton received the award in the water category for their municipally led water treatment plant project built in partnership with the federal and provincial governments. It focuses on treatment, distribution, consumption, and quality of water.

Mr. Speaker, this innovative project ensures that backwash water is not flushed into the sewage system where it would substantially and unnecessarily increase the amount of water being treated in the sewage treatment plant. This project has saved the city \$3 million on infrastructure already, and it is estimated it will save over \$6 million in treatment costs over the life of the water treatment plant. When this project is finished, the plant can treat up to 22 million litres of water per day, and the project site will have public green space area, including a trout pond.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members applaud the city of Yorkton on their award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and on their innovative project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

#### Public-Private Partnerships

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, people are concerned about the P3 [public-private partnership] model for private building, operation, and ownership of public facilities and services. The NDP [New Democratic Party] MLAs have been listening carefully, and we hear that people are worried that the city of Regina is being forced into building a new water treatment plant via a P3 privatization model because federal funding comes with privatization strings attached. With the federal government's restrictions on accessing infrastructure dollars only through P3s, they are sending a clear message to municipalities — it's their way or no way.

The Premier announced last fall his plans for SaskBuilds, a no-money-down, expensive way to build infrastructure like water treatment plants and schools. To the minister of Municipal Affairs: will the province follow the federal model and force municipalities to use a SaskBuilds P3 model to access provincial infrastructure resources?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we certainly over the last number of years, the last number of years we've seen growth in this province, unprecedented growth — 80,000 more people moving to the province. And with growth, Mr. Speaker, comes challenges, challenges with infrastructure whether it's at the municipal level. I know the city of Regina is looking at a water treatment plant, and they're looking at options, Mr. Speaker.

We're looking at infrastructure throughout the province. What we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is looking at all the options that will fund infrastructure, as other provinces have done. Other provinces, most every other province in Canada has a P3 project, Mr. Speaker, whether it's municipal or provincial. In fact, Mr. Speaker, even their brothers and sisters in Manitoba welcome P3 projects, Mr. Speaker. It's only the tired, old NDP that don't want to look at anything positive or new in this province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's why there's only seven of them sitting over there right now, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's nice to see that that minister has challenges. Mr. Speaker, the concerns about using only P3 privatization models are wide and varied. Some are concerned about the ownership of public infrastructure, arguing that if taxpayers are paying for a new water treatment plant, they should also own the building at the end of the day. Others raise concerns about how expensive the building model can be. P3s virtually always cost more for the taxpayer in the long run.

New Democrats believe that Saskatchewan municipalities make sustainable, smart growth choices when they're given the chance. To the minister: why doesn't the Sask Party trust municipalities to decide what's right for them rather than pushing its own agenda?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, as I've said, in most other jurisdictions, whether it's the provincial government or the municipal governments in those jurisdictions, have entered into P3 agreements. You just have to look in Winnipeg, for example, where the mayor speaks glowingly of P3s. Mr. Speaker, in Alberta they've been used many, many times on major infrastructure undertakings such as ring roads around Edmonton, a ring road around Calgary, Mr. Speaker. The savings have been huge, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at those examples to further some of the infrastructure challenges we have here. We are not ruling out P3s — absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. In fact we'll be moving forward with P3s.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic because when they were in government, they had a P3 secretariat in CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. Or does he forget that as well?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, on Monday the mayor of Regina said the city was applying to the federal government with a P3 model because they could only access federal funding by proposing this privatization. That kind of limitation is not about funding. It's about a government blindly forcing their agenda of privatization. Here's what the CJME radio reported from Monday's meeting:

During Monday's meeting Mayor Michael Fougere admitted he doesn't necessarily agree philosophically with the idea of P3s. The vote hinged on the practicality of securing money from the feds. He and several other councillors admitted they aren't comfortable with the federal government essentially forcing municipalities to take on a P3 which have proven contentious in the past.

My question to the minister: why would the Sask Party go down an uncomfortable road for our elected municipal leaders?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite know the basis for the question. I mean there's PPP Canada [Public-Private Partnership Canada], Mr. Speaker. Many jurisdictions have applied to PPP Canada. PPP Canada has put out resources on the municipal level in other provinces on the provincial level, Mr. Speaker.

I would say it would only be the NDP that would not want to take advantage of a program that's helping new municipalities and provincial governments deal with some of the infrastructure needs, Mr. Speaker. It would be really interesting to see, if they ever got back in government, would they completely ignore the program which is hundreds and hundreds of millions put out by the federal government for P3 projects, Mr. Speaker?

Other provinces have entered into agreements. Other municipalities have entered into agreement, Mr. Speaker, and we hope to do the same here in this province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has been down this road before. You might remember the P3 secretariat, Mr. Speaker, a pet project started by the Sask Party government after the 2007 election. The P3 secretariat failed and was quickly abandoned, but the Sask Party government is stubborn and refuses to admit its mistakes.

It's wasting taxpayer money in resurrecting the P3 secretariat scheme this time called SaskBuilds. This government is blindly bulldozing ahead with a plan that has already failed. It's holding municipal support as ransom until municipalities get behind the Sask Party's privatization agenda.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier: will he stop SaskBuilds and design a co-operative, merit-based approach for municipal infrastructure funding?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't want to speak for what the Premier would have to say on this subject, but I think we're moving very positively leading forward, Mr. Speaker, with SaskBuilds. SaskBuilds has been set up for about the last four or five months. We are exploring financing options for many of the infrastructure needs that we have here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

But I find it really interesting. When the Leader of the Opposition asks me, do I remember the P3 secretariat, I would put that to him. Does he remember the P3 secretariat that they set up when they were in government, Mr. Speaker? Did they set it up because they were going to completely ignore any of the information, or were they intentionally moving forward with a P3, perhaps in the future? They seem to forget a lot of stuff about ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] and now he's forgetting a lot of stuff about P3s as well, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

### Support for Creative Industries

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost a year ago, the Sask Party cut off at the knees an important part of the creative industries of our province; they killed the film and television employment tax credit in the provincial budget. Since then we've seen the stubbornness of the Sask Party, as they've been willing to sit back and watch the exodus from our province of film workers and their families. After there was strong opposition to their short-sighted decision, the government scrambled to fix their huge mistake and announced a consultation process with all creative industries.

So it begs the question: why in this consultation process has the government failed once again to listen to the needs of the film industry, an industry Saskatchewan people said loud and clear that they support?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. Mr. Speaker, this government for the better part of the last six to eight months has been consulting with our creative industries throughout the province of Saskatchewan in finding out where government could offer a new mechanism for support in the creative industry sector.

Now during that consultation process, Mr. Speaker, SMPIA [Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association], who represents the film industry in this province, put forth a proposal suggesting what this new mechanism should look like, and I quote, "The program needs to place a greater emphasis on indigenous production." Mr. Speaker, Creative Saskatchewan is going to do that. It said, "It should support greater Saskatchewan expenditures to promote industry sustainability," Mr. Speaker. Creative Saskatchewan is going to do that.

It says, "It needs to meet sector requirements while not participating in what is seen as a bidding war." Mr. Speaker,

what we're seeing in the province of British Columbia right now is that government is going to spend in excess of \$300 million this year in film tax credits, Mr. Speaker, and the industry out there is saying they're at 80 per cent unemployment. We're not going to participate in that bidding war, Mr. Speaker.

It also said, SMPIA said, "It cannot be a tax-related initiative," Mr. Speaker, Creative Saskatchewan will not be a tax-related initiative. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People in the film industry, despite their understandable mistrust of this government, participated in good faith in these consultations. Many of them stuck around even without employment because they want to stay in Saskatchewan where their families and their roots are, and they had to remain hopeful that the government would heed their concerns. But once again, their needs were ignored. For example, the government is taking one of the last vestiges of support for the film industry, SaskFilm, and reallocating its funding into the broader Creative Saskatchewan. How can the minister get up and say with a straight face that Creative Saskatchewan supports the film industry?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker, what we do know with respect to the film tax credit, it is in existence in this fiscal year as we speak. Mr. Speaker, this government, on behalf of the taxpayers of Saskatchewan, are going to spend just in excess of \$8 million this year in support of the refundable film employment tax credit. Mr. Speaker, that's a higher amount than in nine of the previous 14 years that the film employment tax credit has been in existence in this province. We also know we're going to spend probably an approximate \$5 million next fiscal year and \$3 million the year after.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Arts Board has repurposed \$1 million in a loan program they had in existence to provide as an incentive now, as a grant program for our creative sector. Mr. Speaker, this government is spending more on the film industry this year than in nine of the previous 14 years that the film employment tax credit has been in existence.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we know that of the 496 productions that received funding through the film employment tax credit in the last 14 years, 288 of them, Mr. Speaker, have received \$60,000 or less with respect to that film employment tax credit. Right now they have an additional million dollars that they can apply for, with a \$60,000 limit to help out those indigenous production companies here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We are not turning our back on the creative sector.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — But you have turned our back on the film industry. The minister does not seem to get how very different the creative industries are. For instance, marketing for a film happens long before a film is even produced. In the music industry, the marketing happens after the recordings are made.

The governments new one-size-fits-all grant program is not a workable solution for the majority in the film industry. But I am hearing from people across the creative industries that they are happy to collaborate, but the only way that works is if there are actually resources to do so.

Can the minister assure those in the creative industries that there will be new dollars attached to Creative Saskatchewan in the upcoming budget to truly support all the creative industries?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker, we have been working in a collaborative fashion with the creative industries in this province. We've had some very, very fruitful discussions. And I've had many meetings with the hon. member, the critic, and have kept her apprised of the situation as we've moved along, Mr. Speaker, with respect to these negotiations.

Now I do know that the NDP think that there's a pot of money, an unlimited pot outside the legislature somewhere, Mr. Speaker, that we can provide funding on an ad hoc basis for any program in the province, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact we know, we know what the Leader of the Opposition said a year ago. The Leader of the Opposition, the official position of the NDP, said they would take money from farmers and they would take money from municipalities to fund the film industry in this province, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to do that. I can assure the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, we have provided an additional \$1 million in this fiscal year, and she can stay tuned for the budget on March 20th. I think she'll be pleasantly surprised.

[10:30]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

### Community Pastures

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked yesterday if the Minister of Agriculture would sit down and listen to the Community Pasture Patrons Association and hear out their reasonable request for a program that works. Instead of saying he's listening, it was disappointing to hear a minister of the Crown express partisan criticism of a democratically elected leader of a farm organization. It's not a very good start to building a working relationship with a new patrons association, Mr. Speaker.

So I will ask again. The patrons association are very concerned with the aggressive timeline this government has set for off-loading the individual pastures. To the minister: will he stop with the partisan insults and respectfully consider the concerns of the Community Pasture Patrons Association?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question. We certainly are in the process of trying to set up a meeting with Mr. McCreary, but at the meeting in Saskatoon, the public meeting of pasture patrons and others where I was invited to speak, I made it very clear that regardless of what Mr. McCreary's group does, we will be dealing directly with the pasture patrons.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what the Community Pasture Patrons Association is, is the patrons, so I'm glad to hear that the minister will be dealing with them directly.

Mr. Speaker, the timeline for transitioning these PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration] pastures to the patrons is just not workable. The Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association passed a resolution last month. They called on this government to delay the transition of the first 10 pastures for another year. These producers know the timeline is unworkable unless the province sits down and figures out the right transition plan. And the Stock Growers Association passed a resolution last May that they want to see management of the PFRA pasture system be passed on to the province or patron management. These producers know the PFRA management was key to the pasture's success.

Why won't the minister listen to the patrons association, the Cattlemen's Association, and the Stock Growers Association about the timelines and process? Why won't he listen?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for that question as well. I've made it very clear on numerous occasions that we have negotiated an extra year with the federal government. We did that in the middle of the summer. Originally the first five pastures were due to be transferred January 1st, 2013, now no pastures will be transferred until 2014. That is one additional year, Mr. Speaker. We negotiated that with the federal government, and I'm not sure what more the member wants.

We've asked the federal government if they're interested in further setting back the program another year and there is certainly no interest in that on their behalf. It's not our timetable, Mr. Speaker, it's the federal government's.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do commend the minister for the hard work he's done in getting those timelines extended to date. I know that's a good effort.

The minister says that it's all about the patrons best interests but his actions do belie his words. The Manitoba government, on the other hand, has offered a common sense and balanced arrangement for the taxpayers and the patrons. These patrons have been encouraged to form a provincial organization that will oversee the management of each individual pasture.



They're not being charged new rents because the government recognizes they are getting good value under the federal program and want to see it continue, Mr. Speaker. In addition and equally important, there will be no job loss for the managers who help maintain the herds.

What is the minister's problem with following the common sense, reasonable model of our neighbours in Manitoba? Why can't he take that to the producers?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. I always enjoy an opportunity to clarify some of these issues.

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to run the 1.6 million acres of additional pastures that we've received back from the PFRA system. It's not the most economical or efficient way on behalf of the patrons. If we operate these pastures, we know that the costs will be substantial to the patrons. If they operate them themselves, they can build in some efficiencies that we just can't do as government. And we are not going to absorb the costs of operating these pastures as the PFRA did. We have taxpayers other than just the patrons of the pastures to be responsible to as well.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All along the minister has said the province cannot design a cost-recovery model to operate the community pastures. However the minister's expecting producers, many who are nearing the end of their farming careers, to dip into their retirement savings to buy lands and then operate these pastures on top of that. Based on the model that's currently being proposed, that's completely unaffordable.

The minister can't have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. Why on the one hand is the minister saying the government can't afford the community pastures, and on the other hand tell the patrons they can somehow afford to operate them on their own? Which is it, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — We're not asking the producers to raise the money to purchase these pastures, Mr. Speaker. What we've done right from the start is give the producers an option to purchase them if they so desire. Otherwise we will lease them to the patrons groups at the same rate that the province leases pasture land, similar pasture land to individuals.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

### Prince Albert Bridge

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Since the fall sitting, the Saskatchewan Party finally released its choice to not proceed with a second bridge in Prince Albert. This is after the city had to go to the extent of launching a campaign to build a second bridge.

That campaign was backed up by the chamber of commerce, the RMs [rural municipality] around the city, and of course all the people who live in and around Prince Albert. And they all know that a second bridge is essential for the well-being of the entire region. The Sask Party government has totally abandoned Prince Albert and they refuse to listen to all of the voices calling for a second bridge.

Mr. Speaker, why has the Sask Party abandoned the city of Prince Albert and refused to even consider building that second bridge?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructures.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously today is recycle day, Mr. Speaker. So we've answered a number of these questions, whether it's in Ag or in Highways, before but we'll take another shot at it.

Mr. Speaker, a study was done up in Prince Albert where we put some money in the city of Prince Albert and a couple of the RMs put money in. It wasn't driven by the Ministry of Highways or any of the municipalities. It was a joint study: combined, Mr. Speaker, to cover whether a bridge was needed, a second bridge was needed in Prince Albert.

That study came back, Mr. Speaker. It says that the bridge right now as it is will serve the needs of that area for a number of years. Not to say that if there is huge economic growth — which there probably will be under our government over the next number of years, Mr. Speaker — that a second bridge couldn't be looked at into the future. But in the forecast that they've put forward, Mr. Speaker, it said that there wasn't a second bridge.

I would challenge the member opposite: if they had a study commissioned and it was clear that the second bridge wasn't needed, would they put taxpayers' money into a second bridge?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, we'll tell the people of Prince Albert that the minister called their project a recycled project, Mr. Speaker.

This is a very important, a very important issue for the entire northern part of our province and for that region, Mr. Speaker. In 2011 the member from Prince Albert Northcote said, "One big thing that I won't let drop off the table is that we need a second bridge as we continue to grow, and I will push hard."

Since then those local Sask Party MLAs hid in their bunkers so they wouldn't have to repeat their record. Then they crawl out of hiding to make a big non-announcement, Mr. Speaker, a big non-announcement. The member from Prince Albert Carlton told a local paper, quote, well pre-election and during the election campaign, I was very strong on the second bridge for Prince Albert.

Why won't the two members from Prince Albert stand up for their constituents and support that second bridge for Prince Albert and region?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I will say that both members from Prince Albert and members from around Prince Albert have pushed hard, Mr. Speaker. They have told us, Mr. Speaker, that you know, we need to look at that. We have done that. We have looked at it, Mr. Speaker.

But I find it very, very curious. The member opposite that asked the question was the minister of Highways in the former NDP government, and what did he get done for northern Saskatchewan? Absolutely nothing.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party MLAs for Prince Albert and area have literally done nothing for the second bridge, nothing at all. They are abandoning their constituents, just like the Sask Party is abandoning Prince Albert. The member for Northcote said just days before the provincial election that the second bridge is inevitable but now they say otherwise. We in the NDP know a second bridge is needed for the economy, for the safety of drivers, and for the future growth of the city and the entire area, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Minister of Highways and this Premier: when will this government start listening to Saskatchewan people and focus on the real infrastructure needs like the P.A. [Prince Albert] bridge instead of pet projects like the Premier's new hardwood flooring or three more politicians? Will you stand up for the people of P.A.?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — I find it interesting, Mr. Speaker. When he had the chance to get a bridge done in Prince Albert, he didn't do it. When we first talked about three more politicians, he was for it, Mr. Speaker. You know, he's all over the map, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the MLAs from Prince Albert and surrounding area work extremely hard, an awful lot harder than the MLAs that were from that area for the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite has got a loud voice, and he's yelling from his seat. And the member from behind from Cumberland's yelling from his seat, Mr. Speaker. What did they get done in their constituencies when they were in power? Not hardly anything, Mr. Speaker. In fact in Prince Albert they tore apart the bridge, and they wouldn't even repave it, Mr. Speaker. That was Prince Albert's responsibility to pave it. You wouldn't even fix the bridge that was in place.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 86 — *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 86, *The Regulatory Modernization and*

*Accountability Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for the Economy first reading of Bill No. 86, *The Regulatory Modernization and Accountability Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

#### Passage of Bill No. 85

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today to have a private members' debate on this very important piece of legislation that's before us in the House. And it's important that we think of it as a significant piece of legislation that will govern how our workplaces operate over the decades ahead. And we must have that second look at it to make sure we are doing exactly the right thing that is needed to move our province forward. Now our province has been going forward. We all know that. We acknowledge that, and we think that's a wonderful thing. But it has done so, it has done so under the existing labour laws that we see today.

So we're asking the question, why the rush? And many people are joining in and asking that very basic question. In fact one of the questions I have right off the bat is, who is standing with this government to say let's get this done by May long weekend? We're not hearing that outcry that says it's good, it's done. It's perfect, let's move ahead. And in fact we're asked . . . A lot of people are saying, let's take some time. Let's get this right. Nobody is saying that the concept of one large piece of legislation is wrong. But people are saying, let's get it right.

[10:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that what was really telling was a letter that came out yesterday from Hugh Wagner. It was published in the *Leader-Post*, and I want to refer to it because I think it sets the stage. Now this minister, unlike the previous Labour minister, had actually involved both business and labour leaders in an advisory capacity to make sure they get the legislation right. And in fact they had several meetings, I understand, and I understand there was great common understanding. But the issue remains: some of these folks think we're moving too fast. And I want to read from this commentary that was printed in the *Leader-Post* yesterday, March 6th. And the heading is "New Sask. labour law: why the rush?" And it's written by Hugh Wagner, and I quote:

As labour leaders, business leaders and government we have a responsibility to work together to maintain a stable, balanced, and fair work environment for all people in Saskatchewan. We have been charged to preserve the rights and freedoms of choice we all enjoy resulting from the solid foundation of labour legislation we have built together over the past 70 years.

So he sets the stage in saying this is really a critical piece of work, that we have to make sure we get it right. And there's been a lot of steps that have gone before this that really makes us ask the question: are we in too big of a rush to do this?

And I just want to take a step back and talk about how this was launched. You know, actually it was ironic because during the campaign we did not hear anything about this kind of omnibus legislation. And in fact it was launched last May 2nd, and a bit of a surprise. Nobody saw this coming. Nobody had asked for it. The minister couldn't answer the question: who's calling for such a piece of legislation? A lot of those questions were left unanswered. And so the summer was spent in response to "A Consultation Paper on the Renewal of Labour Legislation in Saskatchewan," a relatively thin piece of work, but it had 180-some questions and some were quite wide-ranging; some were quite alarmist.

And I know the minister said that some . . . They had not really had any intention of actually following through when they talked about the stat holidays, that type of thing — do we have too many stat holidays? They had no intention of cancelling stat holidays. But it left a lot of people wondering what was really behind this government's motive to do this, and why. Why the hurry? Because essentially what had happened was that people were to respond to this and other points that they wanted to raise by the end of July. And of course announcing at the beginning of May, ending in July, that 90-day window really was problematic because of course as you know, July in Saskatchewan is seen as a holiday month. The kids are out of school. People are travelling, enjoying the warm weather. And it wasn't really the best consultation process. And that was a concern we raised that they weren't going to get the best work.

And in fact the only way you could provide feedback to this government was through a written response. This government had no interest in actually going out and talking to the people and talking to all sorts of people. They were going to just let the mail come in. And of course we saw it. Apparently there was quite a significant number of responses. Many, many — in fact we understand the number is over 2,000 — were actually a photocopy of a fax that was sent in. So there's some questions about how credible was the response but, fair enough, they are the government. They took it, and then we all went away until early December, on the Tuesday two days before the wrap-up of the session, to actually see the legislation.

And of course that was a real problem because we just didn't have time to respond in the winter session at all. Of course we understood why they took so long because there was an awful lot of work to do. Here you have some . . . Now they were looking at 15 pieces of legislation. In the end 12 pieces were essentially used. We understand that actually the number is closer to over 30. Thirty-three pieces of legislation is impacted by the new bill, which is some 184 pages. And of course how

many hundreds of regulations will be impacted as well? It's a huge piece. It's a huge piece. And we're saying, let's take the time to get it right. We're not saying that, stop it; throw it out. We're saying, let's fully understand what the consequences are.

Now what is interesting, yesterday in the House I asked the question . . . For example, the government in its press release and information that it sent out at the final days of the session about what was in the bill and what was going to be out of the old legislation, highlighted some things but clearly didn't have — and it is a communications problem — didn't highlight all the things that were being left out. So yesterday I asked about Sunday, Sunday being now out of the labour standards. And of course that, it may be a faith issue, but we also think and perhaps even bigger of importance, more importance, is the fact it's really about work-life balance, work-life balance, because we know Sunday is the anchor of the weekend. It's a day that the schools are closed.

Now the minister said, and this is what he replied — and it seemed like he was fully aware so it wasn't an unintended consequence; it was intended — that they would remove the Sunday and that we would then be having pretty much an unstructured weekend throughout the week.

He says, and I quote:

There have been court challenges with regard to Sunday being a religious holiday and the Act has been amended in compliance with rulings of the courts in our province and elsewhere.

So we know though, there has been battles about Sunday and there has been battles about Sunday opening. And that has been an issue around the faith issue. We're not sure if there's been challenges around Sunday as part of the weekend, but the minister seemed to imply that across Canada no other province has Sunday as part of a designated, as part of their days of rest. In fact we know of three other provinces, three other provinces where it is the case that Sunday remains as part of the weekend.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we're not getting clear answers from this government. We're not getting straight answers about this government. So we are nervous about what are going to be the implications of this bill.

And as well, another example of the government not giving straight answers, when we asked about this in May, about how much was this going to cost, and the minister was very clear, very clear that the costs of this were going to be absorbed by the existing labour budget, that they could do everything in-house and there would be no extra cost. But we soon found out when we got back to the legislature in October, November that that was not the case, that in fact that it was going to cost at least \$700,000 more, at least \$700,000. And we don't know how much more, and what will be the impact on the budget in a couple of weeks.

My guess is that we're going to be hovering around \$1 million for this project that was sold to us as essentially being no cost because they had everything in-house. And that clearly wasn't the case. It clearly wasn't the case. So we're saying, is this well thought out? Has this been well researched? And why not take

the time to do a good job because it is so clearly, clearly important to the people of Saskatchewan?

Now I want to say, to read a little further from Mr. Wagner's commentary because it's so critical that we get this right. And this is how labour and business view it, and I quote:

We are all part of the "Saskatchewan advantage" and the biggest economic boom in our province's history. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country and more people are moving to our province than ever before.

[All of this has been done] All of this has been achieved under our current labour legislation — there clearly is no crisis requiring a hasty fix.

He goes on to say, "modernization . . ." And I quote:

Modernization of laws is a good thing, but it requires thoughtful and inclusive review and that will take time.

There is no harm in taking time, but there is a worrying potential for real damage if passage of this new legislation is rushed.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to take that time. We see the fiasco, what happened with the essential services legislation that was rushed. And here we are six years later with it still in court, and there's no end in sight. There's no end in sight what will happen with essential services. So why not take the extra months and get this right? I think the minister has made some steps by having an advisory committee. But I urge him and we urge him to listen to his members on his advisory committee that say, let's take the time to really study this.

There are many questions. One of the questions I have, Mr. Speaker, is so you have a piece of legislation, and one of the pieces that they've proposed is the indexing of the minimum wage. And we think that's a good idea. We would rather see it in the legislation, that phrase, that part, but they're saying it's in regulations. Well where are the regulations? We haven't seen the regulations. Now we're hearing the minister say it may be sometime in the summer. Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds of regulations, literally hundreds of regulations.

Now I have to say that there are some places where it's important to have good, strong regulations. And I'm thinking of occupational health and safety, particularly when it comes to the mining regulations in terms of how the safety factors in mines are operated. All of those are very, very critical.

But some of the things should be in legislation. So we're saying, what's the rush? Let's get this right. We've seen it when it's gone wrong, horribly wrong: as I said, essential services. And we can't see a much better way ahead when you have partners saying, let's take the time; let's take the time to get it right.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we're very concerned, we're very concerned that this government, by focusing its resources on this, is not tackling the priorities of this province that it should be. And I'm thinking of three particular areas. One — and the minister and I are in agreement on this — one is occupational

health and safety. We have a horrible record here in Saskatchewan that needs much more attention and needs resources to be tackled.

We also have the issue around making sure First Nations and Métis people are fully engaged in the workplace, fully engaged in the workplace. That's hugely important. That has to be done. And as well, Mr. Speaker, one thing I've been hearing a lot is about the temporary foreign workers, and we have a bill before the House on that. Curious why that's not part of this bill, because labour standards for anybody who works should be in this bill. So we have clear, clear priorities.

And the other issue I have that I need to raise today is around the resources for enforcing this bill. What will happen? Will there be more occupational health and safety inspectors? Will there be more labour standards inspectors to help with this? How much will this really cost? And will this happen? So, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to move today the motion that's before this House. And I'll read this now:

That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with the government over the pace, scope, and necessity of rewriting workplace laws of the province and calls on the government to delay the passage of Bill No. 85 until the fall sitting.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — Before I call the vote I would ask the government members to turn down the general rumble, please. It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Centre:

That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with the government over the pace, scope, and necessity of rewriting the workplace laws of the province and calls on the government to delay the passage of Bill 85 until the fall sitting.

I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll happily speak to this. And I have to say right at the beginning that I do not support the motion. Mr. Speaker, to delay the passage is typical of the NDP. They want to delay everything. Delay, delay — let's take a long time — in their hopes that maybe with a new leader they might get back into power somewhere along the line and then they don't have to do anything. This is completely different than what this government wants to do.

This government wants to move this province forward. And the way we move the province forward is by going over these things, taking the antiquated things that the NDP would never ever do, and move forward on it.

Mr. Speaker, we have way more people working in this province now than what we've ever had. Our population is now at an all-time high — 1,086,564 people. You know, Mr. Speaker, it's grown by 23,024 people in the past year alone.

[11:00]

And the catch is, Mr. Speaker, we want to make these laws,

these procedures easy for people to go and see what their rights are — for all of the working people within this province, for the employers, for everyone. We want to see them be able to go on the Internet, because pretty well everybody has the Internet now, and simply find out what their rights are. You know, when you went in there before and looked, it was a very convoluted system. What we are trying to do is put in a system to make it look . . . so people can go in there and look and see what their rights are. The employers can go in and see what their rights are.

Now obviously a lot of people were tired of the tired, old NDP because that is why, the last two elections, we have moved forward. And they've seen this province moving forward. This is what the people want. They want this province to move forward. Actually our population has increased in this province for 26 consecutive quarters. So, Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at this, it makes it far easier for the people to see what their rights are.

Now the member from Saskatoon Centre says, well it's a surprise. Well you know, I guess it's a surprise that the so-called ruling party of Saskatchewan is sitting there with only nine members. Maybe their new leadership campaign will change some of that. But you know something? I actually doubt it. I doubt it. You know, when you actually look at what, you know, the possibility of their future leader, Ryan Meili, is saying, like I mean he wants to move Saskatchewan back to where the government actually owns a whole pile of things. Like you know, he wants to run it back to where they're running their own bank, their own pharmaceutical company. For all I know, you know, maybe they want to get back into the shoe business, the box business, the potato business. Who knows?

You know at that time, at that time when they were doing that, Saskatchewan always had an out-migration of people. Mr. Speaker, that's not what this government is about. This government is about moving, moving forward, making things simple for people to work in this province, to raise their families in this province, to enjoy this province of which I've always felt is the best province in Canada. I've said it in this House many a time before and I'll say it again: the reason I got involved in politics was because I wanted to see my children working in this province. And I'm proud to say, now that both of them are out of university, they are working in this province. They want to learn what their rights are also.

Mr. Speaker, you know, when you take a look at all the things that have happened within this province, like I mean we're sitting here with the lowest unemployment rate in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker . . . The employment for women has increased by 5.1 per cent in this province. It's hitting an all-time high for women working within this province just as we're talking about national women's day is tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, everything here shows a province that is moving forward and that is why we don't want to delay on what the member from Saskatoon Centre's brought forward. We don't want to delay on it. Let's move forward. We have the highest small-business optimism in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when you want to sit back and you want to look at

the former, at the former government's record, you take a look at their out-migration which was what they were actually famous for — well that and potatoes and various other things — their out-migration. Like take a look at their numbers. In 1996 there was 990,240 people in Saskatchewan; in 2001, 978,925 people; 2006, 968,157. Mr. Speaker, that old, tired NDP government who never wanted to move anything forward at any speed, they were taking and driving our people out of this province. This government is not about that. This government, Mr. Speaker, is to have people working within this province and moving this province forward.

Let's take a look at 2011. You know, after the short time that the Saskatchewan Party was in, they were already up to 1,033,381. You know, Mr. Speaker, people when they sat there and looked before, when they looked at Saskatchewan, they were moving with their feet. They were moving out of this province. The Saskatchewan Party is working on moving this province forward. I just have to keep saying that because it is the truth, Mr. Speaker.

We have the Saskatchewan advantage. The Saskatchewan advantage is open to everybody. We are very fortunate to be in a province and in a country where somebody can come from poverty, from a poverty-stricken family, and turn themselves into millionaires. We are not like some of the dictatorships, some of the countries that some of the members on the other side might follow along with. We believe in free enterprise — free enterprise for all people in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, when you take a look at the things that have happened in just the very, very short time we have been here, Mr. Speaker, we have moved this province forward. And to have the NDP opposition sit there and say, no, slow down, slow down, well I'm sorry; we will not slow down. Let's move it forward and keep this province going.

Now when I go back and I sit there and look at the various different things that have happened . . . Like I mean our oil. Take a look at the oil. Everybody's seen that old map. You know back when the NDP was in power you could've sworn all the dinosaurs died over in Alberta. They didn't . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — They're still here. About nine of them.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — They did. And this is mentioned by some of my colleagues. Yes, there are still some dinosaurs in Saskatchewan, but they're on the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

After the Saskatchewan Party got in, oil started to flow. Potash mines started to be built in this province, Mr. Speaker. Under the NDP, they tried to run their own potash mines, and how did that work out? It was kind of like their potato factories.

So I have to say, Mr. Speaker, there may be a change, there may be a change with one of their new leaders but, Mr. Speaker, I really don't think so. I think that they are going to still stick with their old philosophy, try and move things as slowly as possible, and still stick their heads in the sand. And maybe like the dinosaurs, they'll just finally die out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in support of this motion today. And I'm going to use my brief 10 minutes to talk a little bit about an experience I had in my office, maybe in mid-January I think it was, where I was contacted by SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union], some of the staff from that particular union, Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union. And they made an appointment to come to my office to come and speak to me about some of their concerns with this Saskatchewan employment Act.

And I really appreciated them taking the time to come and share some of those concerns with me because it gave me a much different appreciation of the impact of this bill and some of the changes in this bill that I wouldn't have had if I hadn't taken the time to listen to them and hear what they had to say.

There was, I think, three gentlemen . . . two gentlemen came to my office and they were . . . You know, this is something very new to them, but I think they've been working hard at getting the courage to get up and speak to this and their concerns. They've been working really hard to study the bill, study the effects of the bill on their particular workplace and the changes that it might impact on them. And I will share some of those with you.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that as we discussed the bill, I said, oh well, you know, this is really good information that you've brought. And they had a package that I'll be referring to, some really good information. And I said, have you had a chance to talk to any other MLAs? And they said, well actually you're the first one that we've spoken to so far, but we have made appointments to speak to some other MLAs. And they said, unfortunately a couple of the Saskatoon MLAs had agreed to speak to us, but then we got a call recently and they cancelled that appointment.

And I just want to talk about that for a couple of minutes, Mr. Speaker, because I think that's a sign of a government that's not listening. And if our own MLAs are not taking the time to meet with these people and have them come in and at least listen to the concerns, then we have a government that's not listening. So I think the members know who they are. There were some who had agreed to speak and got instructions somewhere that they weren't supposed to listen to these union members. It's a sad state of affairs, but I think it reflects where this government is right now in its legislative agenda.

And so for the record, Mr. Speaker, I just want to speak about some of those concerns here so that perhaps the members who are in this space right now and aren't visiting might take a couple of minutes to just hear some of the concerns of this particular government employees' union. These are the people that work for our government, the people that put in their careers looking after the public service and taking care of the programs that are important to the people of Saskatchewan. So maybe I could highlight a couple of their concerns in the short time that's left for this debate.

First of all, the one concern they are concerned about is the

scope of union membership. And their point is that this proposed bill goes much further than any other legislation in Canada to take workers out of scope. That's significant, Mr. Speaker. It's not something that's unimportant or trivial. And I think, you know, we're hearing from the members opposite, they don't even refer to the bill in their comments. They refer to stuff that has nothing to do with the substance of this bill. So I'm concerned they haven't taken the time to maybe think about it and think about the impact of some of these provisions on the working people, including the government employees of this government.

So first of all, under Bill 85, the new definition of managers and workers of confidence has been significantly broadened. And I did want to take a little bit of time to comment on the International Labour Organization who have, based on their comments, many of these changes will be ruled out of order at that level. And I suspect they would be found unconstitutional when you look at the right of freedom of association under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. So this is what we're being forced to because the members opposite aren't taking the time to listen to what the concerns are, consider them deliberately, and then provide feedback to their cabinet minister so that he can make a reasoned and principled approach to this labour bill.

The current Saskatchewan trade union Act has two types of exclusions. First of all, "a person whose primary responsibility is to actually [and I'm emphasizing actually] exercise authority and actually perform functions that are of a managerial character." And the second exclusion currently is that "a person who is regularly acting in a confidential capacity . . ." and again I emphasize the word regularly. So there's two things there in the current trade union Act where we see there are exclusions for people that are deemed to not be . . . They're taken out of scope.

What we have now under Bill 85 is the new section 6-1(1)(h)(i)(A). And first of all they say you will be excluded from a union if your "primary responsibility is to exercise authority and perform functions that are of a managerial character." Secondly, the confidential part of that:

a person whose duties include activities of a confidential nature in matters relating to any of the following [and there's four areas]:

- labour relations;
- business strategic planning;
- policy advice;
- budget implementation or planning.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when you think about that, it is quite likely that anytime a government worker is asked to participate in the lean exercise that this government is so enthralled with, they could be considered out of scope, because they are doing activities relating to policy advice. Is that the intent of this government, is to exclude everyone who is involved in the lean exercise from the union? That's the logical extension of the way this bill is being drafted, Mr. Speaker. And until these members take the time to listen to those concerns, consider them, and provide that feedback to their minister . . . The backbenchers have every opportunity to do this. And that's their job as MLAs is to listen to concerns of the bills that are

being implemented and introduced in this legislature. And if they're not going to do that, they're not meeting the requirements of their position, Mr. Speaker.

[11:15]

So the problem with a lot of this definition is that it's not clear. What does business strategic planning mean? That could have a significant impact on people's lives and on their rights to associate and the freedom to associate. And without any kind of guidelines or clear lines what separates, for example, normal operations from budget implementation, if somebody is asked what supplies are needed in the coming year, is that budget planning, and is that confidential?

One of the main points . . . And I'm not going to be able to address all the points that the SGEU has made to me. I strongly encourage the members opposite to take the time and read through these materials and actually meet with some of those members because they have some very compelling points. There's nothing in this legislation that was demanded by those people.

We don't know who the minister is consulting with and who is pushing him to make these changes, but we do know there are some significant concerns that are going to impact the workplace. And we're hoping that the backbenchers will take the time and listen to the members of the union, read their materials. And some of them apparently have met but, I think, what I was told is many haven't. We'll see what the union has to say about the reception they've received.

Changes in Bill 85 that would exclude greater numbers of employees from union membership can be seen as contrary to the principles of freedom of association according to the International Labour Organization. On the decisions that have come from that body, it's clear that managerial staff really should be limited and they should be limited to persons who have the authority to appoint or dismiss.

And as the minister knows, there are all kinds of supervisory functions being performed in any workplace, any workplace that you go to. Does that mean they should be excluded from union membership? Absolutely not. And that's not what the International Labour Organization has ruled. And I think he will learn that the hard way if he continues with this bill in the courts.

The second thing that the SGEU pointed out about ILO [International Labour Organization] decisions is that if you have an excessively broad interpretation of the concept of worker of confidence, which denies workers their right of association, that will limit trade union rights. And in small enterprises it could even prevent the establishment of trade unions which is very contrary to the principle, the Charter-protected principle, of freedom of association.

So that's just one of the areas that they commented on. The other one that was of grave concern to the government employees of this province is that the bill will create instability and division in workplaces by splitting bargaining units into units of supervisors and employees. As we know, as has been the norm, it's not antiquated; it is working, Mr. Speaker. We

hear members opposite commenting on how this is old-fashioned. It's not old-fashioned. It's good fashion and makes total sense. It's working. No one is asking for it to change. Why is that a bad thing?

All employee bargaining units have been the norm in Saskatchewan and across Canada for decades. There's been no significant problems with this approach. I challenge the minister to provide us with some of the problems with the current approach. There appears to be no rationale for such a dramatic departure from existing legislation and established precedents.

And there's a big difference between management and supervision. And sure, sometimes the lines could get fuzzy. That's when we have to take time and sit down and look at the particular fact situation. We know courts do that all the time. You take time and look at the individual situation. But the way this goes, it goes way too far. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I haven't had enough time to speak to the other concerns. Again I encourage members to take the time to read this material honestly and then take time to consider those requests.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, implementing the new Saskatchewan employment Act clearly defines the rights, responsibilities of employees, employers, and unions. Mr. Speaker, we are very lucky and blessed in this province to have such a hard-working workforce, and the province appreciates all their hard work in building the new Saskatchewan.

The people of this province appreciate the approach and the common sense solutions that this government is putting forward. The population of this province voted in the last election overwhelmingly for the direction that we're taking the province. Even rank-and-file union members voted in majority for the Saskatchewan Party. The vast majority of the population, at 64 per cent, voted for the direction that we would like to take the province. Three of my hardest working volunteers in my campaign were union members. My seatmate was a union member as well before being elected to this Chamber.

This Act, Mr. Speaker, will educate employers, employees, about employment standards and occupation health and safety in Saskatchewan. It protects workers by enforcing compliance of employment standards and occupation health and safety legislation and regulation through inspection and investigations. This legislation will encourage workplaces to adopt best practices in areas of employment standards, occupation health and safety, and labour relations.

Mr. Speaker, with the new legislation, our government will continue to deliver the young workers' readiness certificate course.

We will work with Workers' Compensation Board to develop injury prevention strategies through WorkSafe Saskatchewan. This is common sense, fair, and balanced strategies to improve the well-being of the workers in Saskatchewan. And we'll

educate injured workers about the workers' compensation system and the role of the office of Workers' Advocate.

Mr. Speaker, our government has increased the minimum wage by over 25 per cent in five years. That's the third highest after-tax income for full-time minimum-wage earners.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to protecting workers in this province. Why would we want to slow down on the process of making it safer to work in Saskatchewan? We are committed to eliminating the workplace injuries through WorkSafe Saskatchewan and this is why the rank-and-file members of this province have supported us in the last election.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007 we have reduced our workplace injury rate by nearly 20 per cent, and in 2011 the time-lost injury rate was 3.05 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we know that the most important thing is that everyone return safe at the end of the day. That is why, Mr. Speaker, our government workplace inspections has increased from 3,621 in 2006 under that government to 4,578 under this government.

Mr. Speaker, in continuing our protection of workers in this province, we introduced *The Workers' Compensation Act* in 2012. It eliminates inconsistencies, clarifies legislation application, and improves the benefit of injured workers. Mr. Speaker, the maximum wage rate for the upper limit of earnings used for the calculation of benefits will increase from 55,000 to 59,000 for new claims. Mr. Speaker, the maximum wage rate was last increased in 2005. It improves benefits for injured workers by increasing the maximum insurable earnings. Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the introduction of a system of indexing to ensure benefits are adjusted annually.

Mr. Speaker, the new Saskatchewan employment Act contained provisions that include the indexation of the minimum wage to provide security for minimum-wage earners and ensure predictability for business owners in the province. Introduction of two new leave provisions: organ donation and leave to attend citizen ceremonies. Reduction of qualification period for maternity and parental and adoption leave has been changed from 20 weeks to 13 weeks of service. This is the balanced, common sense approach that the Saskatchewan people expect, recognizing that no individual or group may be compensated differently on the grounds of any prohibition identified within *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Mr. Speaker, most of the Saskatchewan labour legislation hasn't been reviewed in at least 20 years. Mr. Speaker, *The Trade Union Act* and *The Labour Standards Act* were last reviewed in 1990s. When that was last reviewed, if you turned the radio on back then, you might have heard Nirvana "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if you were into the grunge movement back in the '90s but maybe you remember other songs that were playing on the radio when it was reviewed such as "Tears in Heaven" by Eric Clapton.

Now if you'd wait until the last time *The Labour Management Dispute Act* was reviewed in the 1980s, if the radio was on you might have heard "Beat It" by Michael Jackson, Mr. Speaker. That's how long back you have to go to find the last time that we reviewed some of these Acts. And four Acts that haven't been reviewed since the 1940s or '50s, including *The Wages*

*Recovery Act*, back then, Mr. Speaker, if you turned on the radio you would have heard "Long Gone Lonesome Blues" by Hank Williams. And, Mr. Speaker, that's not Hank Williams, Jr., that's senior. And when he was on the radio, they also reviewed *The Employment Agencies Act*, *The Fire Departments Platoon Act* and *The Building Trades Protection Act*. That's how long back you have to go to see when the last time government reviewed these Acts.

Also on the radio, we also had the Saskatoon Centre MLA that was on the radio. It was on December 5th, and he wasn't singing about Bryan Adams' "Summer of 69," Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker, I'll quote what he was on the radio talking about: "A former set of bills that were easily understood because they had a title and you knew the minimum wage was under the minimum wage Act." Well, Mr. Speaker, that might make sense for the former Labour minister. Unfortunately that was repealed in 1969.

So this is just one of the many examples of where we haven't reviewed these Acts and they're not simple to find. If the former minister of Labour could not easily remember where Acts were found and referenced it in present day, an Act that was repealed in 1969, you knew that we were on the right path of bringing all these Acts into one.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Riversdale spoke to Bill 85 on Monday, March 4th in adjourned debates. She quoted the new Saskatchewan employment Act which I encourage all members on that side to have a read. It's only 184 pages. Here's her quote from the adjourned debates:

In prescribed workplaces with more than 10 employees, or for prescribed categories of employees, an employer shall grant to employees in the workplace or in the category of employees two consecutive days off every week.

That's her reading the Act. Then her question was, "So I am correct in saying that employees will no longer be entitled to two days off a week?" Mr. Speaker, if she would've took the time in the last three months to read the 184-page report, she would've had the answers to her own questions.

Mr. Speaker, I know they're busy on the other side. They've got a leadership race going on and there's only nine members. But you'd think they would find time to read a 184-page Act over a three-month period in order to understand what is getting proposed and they would have the answers that they're asking for, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP believe the minimum wage should be increased and that not everyone is bettering from the current level of prosperity being experienced in Saskatchewan right now, particularly minimum wage. In fact, Mr. Speaker, combined with the increase to basic personal taxes exemption, the child tax credit, the Saskatchewan low-income tax credit, when you add all those things up we've dropped over 100,000 people off the tax rolls, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in fact our government has increased minimum wage five times — on January 1st, 2008, again in May 1st, 2008, May 1st, 2009, September 1st, 2011, and on December



1st, 2012. We're also committed to indexing that, the minimum wage. This is something that the NDP have campaigned on and when they were in government for 16 years did not touch — they promised to do it after convention after convention — but they promised they would index the minimum wage. They refused to. This government is acting on that and we will index the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, just the motion that's on the floor: "That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with the government over the pace . . ." The pace. After three months of this Act being out there, they're concerned about the pace. The scope, the scope of this. Well we just saw two examples where members didn't have the time to read the report. We had the former minister looking at Acts that were repealed in 1969. We have another member that would have answered her own question if she actually read the report or read the Act. And to delay this bill that will delay safety in this province is . . .

[11:30]

**The Speaker:** — Time has expired. I recognize the next speaker. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to wade in on the motion here that my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has put forward, that I will be supporting.

Today I'm going to take the opportunity to talk about lost opportunities. So if the government really wanted to modernize labour legislation, they would take the time to listen to all kinds of people, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things, and I mentioned this the other day in the debate on *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, but a few years ago in 2005 the federal government was embarking upon a consultation process on labour standards, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And they put out a discussion paper in February of 2005. They toured 13 cities across Canada and came out with an interim paper, and then almost two years later finally came up with a report.

So that is a good example of a government taking some time to listen to people. They accepted not only written briefs, but a designated high-level committee took the opportunity, took the opportunity . . . Sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thought you were about to rise on your . . .

So the federal government took the opportunity to really review what was going on, listening to people and reaching out to organizations too who might not normally be someone, a group who would think, well I should be participating in a labour force discussion. There was a breast-feeding organization. Breastfeeding Committee for Canada spoke about breast-feeding breaks because the International Labour Organization actually has said that those are things that are important.

The members opposite are laughing, actually. But we talk about the new Saskatchewan here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have, here in Saskatchewan we have — well in Canada — the Canadian Paediatric Society recommends exclusive breast-feeding to six months and sustained breast-feeding to

two years and beyond. The World Health Organization recommends the same thing. The one thing that has been acknowledged in the literature, when a woman returns to work it becomes incredibly difficult to sustain breast-feeding, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And so one of the things that was presented to the federal Labour Code actually, the people who were reviewing the federal Labour Code, one of the recommendations from Judge Harry Arthurs was:

Part III should provide for short breaks during working hours to afford nursing employees reasonable time off, without pay, to breastfeed a child and/or express milk on the work site.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think this is a lost opportunity to think about how we engage and support women in employment and modernize our labour standards, or all our labour Acts, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This was a lost opportunity to talk to people who could have provided some good information about what is needed in Saskatchewan today to support employees to be the best possible employees and the best possible caregivers as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's something else we have here in Saskatchewan that's been on the books for quite some time, which is a very good support. It's section 44.2 of labour standards which provided people in Saskatchewan job protection to stay home with sick children — up to 12 days of job protection. Other jurisdictions have it entrenched as family responsibility leave. But this is something we could have looked at, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to point out to the members opposite that close to 70 per cent of mothers of children under five are in paid employment here in Saskatchewan, and we have labour force shortages here in Saskatchewan so we need those mothers in the labour force here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So we need to think about mechanisms to best support employment. And the bottom line about employment standards is that it's legislation to set fair and reasonable minimum standards to ensure that all workers are treated fairly and with respect in the workplace.

But the reality is, and this is with 2009 stats, that show 10.2 per cent of employees here in Saskatchewan are low wage. Most of them happen to be women. Most of them have limited education, with 40 per cent having completed high school. And most are not unionized. So they depend on public policy to be able to do their work well and to ensure that they have fair workplaces, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I want to point out . . . I talked about section 44.2 which currently exists, which is a very good section. And many people aren't aware that they can't be fired for calling in to work and saying that they have a sick child. The Act currently reads, the Act that this government is amending is 44.2:

Except for just cause unrelated to injury or illness, no employer shall dismiss, suspend, lay off, demote or discipline an employee because of absence due to the illness or injury of the employee or illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family as defined in section 29.3 who is dependent on the employee . . .

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is . . . I am glad to see, I think the government is maintaining that same intent, but they have edited that. They say, “Subject to subsections (2) to (4), except for just cause unrelated to injury or illness, no employer shall take discriminatory action against an employee because of absence.”

So I’m not sure. We still have more questions, Mr. Speaker. I’m not quite sure if this change to discriminatory action is stronger or weaker. I think laying out what you can’t do is probably stronger but we still have questions about that.

But as I said at the start of my speech, I wanted to talk about lost opportunities. Having worked with many lower waged employees, I know one of the lost opportunities in this particular piece is perhaps setting aside paid days — a day or two of paid employment — for employees when they have to care for a child or an elder. That is the reality of many people’s lives. In working with lower -waged employees, I can tell you stories.

I remember one woman describing for me when she had sick children. This is a single mother. She had a 10-year-old and a 12-year-old. And we all know . . . Well we all get sick. That happens occasionally. But anybody who has children knows that children tend to get sick more frequently than adults. They’re still building up those little immunity systems. And so when your child is sick and you have to make a choice between staying home or giving up the paycheck, it can be very hard.

So back to this woman with the 10- and the 12-year-old. She told me stories about making the tough decision, about propping her sick kid up in bed. She had no family in Saskatoon. What she had to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when she had a sick child, because she didn’t want to give up her wages, her low wage, she would . . . If one of her children was sick, they would be in bed alone at home by themselves with a portable phone next to them because she couldn’t give up her lost wages.

The other thing that I’ve heard from employees too is there are some workplaces that provide paid sick days for you as the employee but don’t recognize family responsibility leave. And many people in their collective agreements have family responsibility leave, but the average lower waged employee does not have family responsibility leave. So when they have . . . When your workplace will allow you to take a sick day for yourself, what that often fosters, if you don’t have that opportunity to take it when you have a sick child, is you lie, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And people don’t feel good about lying to their employers. But again if you’re making \$10 an hour and you have to make the decision between staying at home and taking care of your little one or going off to work or giving up your paycheck, it’s a very difficult decision.

So there was an opportunity here to reach out and talk to different organizations that support family, and perhaps consider entrenching family responsibility leave in our labour standards, and perhaps entrenching a day or two of paid leave for families, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I’m concerned about all employees. And we heard a lot of talk from the other side just talking about unionized employees, but the reality is this Act deals with all people in Saskatchewan, whether you have a

union or not. And again, and again this is about making sure that we are setting the bar. This is about minimum standards.

And I think many members opposite don’t realize that not everybody has a union in their workplace to support them and bargain and get what they need. So we need to ensure that our labour standards, our labour standards are as strong . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You know what? I have someone across the way speculating that perhaps I’m saying that small businesses are bad. That is not at all what I’m saying. In my experience in working on work-family balance, it was small employers who were some of the most supportive. And I would completely . . . Small employers were some of the most supportive of their employees when it came to work-family balance. But the reality is labour standards are designed to ensure that we have protection for all employees and we are lifting and supporting employees out of problems when they have them.

I hear a lot of chatter over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is not relevant and is absolutely ridiculous, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government had a prime opportunity to do good things and they chose not to do so.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, it’s a pleasure to join in this very important debate. And I feel it’s, on both sides of the House, it’s very important. I know the . . . I believe the members actually are in quite favour of this bill because they also talk about passage of Bill 85 until the fall sitting, just want it delayed for a little while. But I’ll probably . . . I’ll try to explain to them why they don’t need to have it delayed.

Now we know with 3,800 or over 4,000 submissions, now they did submit prior to . . . They actually read the legislation, Mr. Speaker, which was good. But after we actually presented the legislation, they didn’t make a submission. So I’m guessing that they probably feel that this is a pretty good bill, and the workings of it.

Now I know with their leadership convention going on, they have been quite busy with that. And they have, you know, they’ve been quite preoccupied, and it is very telling on the caucus. It would keep you very busy, very stressed; you wouldn’t be able to submit. But they still have time, and I’m pretty sure who gets in there . . . Possibly I think Mr. Meili’s indicated that he would probably submit a submission, and he would be quite willing to if he gets to be leader. And we also have time.

The Minister of Labour has assured me, because I just talked to him a little bit ago, saying that they would still . . . They’re still accepting submissions. They’re still accepting information because this is, this bill does affect a lot of people, Mr. Speaker. It affects, you know, some of the most important part of Saskatchewan, the working people — whether union, non-union, the working class of the people — which we all on both sides of the House fall into that category where we’ve all, you know, worked for employers, have been employees. I have myself. I had employees. I’ve also been an employee. I’ve been a union member. And I worked for the railroad company. Our

union I think was out of Chicago at that time. I mean it was a very good union. They treated us very well, you know. We worked there. And they would, looking at this legislation, would feel it's fair. Because what we're doing is, for employees and employers, we're rolling it into one Act instead of having to go to three different Acts.

You know, when you're looking for information there's a small . . . And the member opposite talked about small business. For small business it would be quite easier, I think, to be able to go to one Act when you're looking through the regulations than to have to go through one Act and realize, you know what? Now it just says, moving, you have to go and reread another Act. And I think we've got that from employers and employees that this is way better, that you . . . One Act. One Act. It should be rolled in together. So when you're doing it . . .

And we've also did other things. I understand — not understand; which we are, we are indexing the minimum wage. We're adjusting to that, you know, because the member opposite talked how important it is for low-income people. Well we're trying to address that with this. And if you hold this bill up, if you hold this bill up till fall like you said you would like to hold it to fall, you will be holding that up for the low-income workers that you said that you're working. We want to get this Act out there so that people can keep working to help the employees and the employees.

And I know that we will work very well to get this bill passed before May, by May 17th, and I expect that we expect that we may. As you look at this bill and study it more and talk to people, I think you will see that this will help both employers and employees as we move forward. Because that's what grows this province, is the two units of people working together, you know, employees, employers.

My constituency, the employment rate has jumped considerably, you know, with the potash mines coming on board, Mr. Speaker. You know, very good, union paid jobs in the potash industry — very good, you know. And I know that they're doing mine expansions at the Allan, Colonsay mine. Lots of trade people have been working there for a number of years and working with the mine expansion. And all the trades — well-paid, well, nice, good-paying union jobs, extra jobs for the communities.

You look at Watrous and Lanigan and Young and Drake and Jansen. The towns are growing. The houses are being bought up. People are coming back. The population, as we all know in Saskatchewan has grown. So with this we need to keep moving forward with our legislation to help employers and employees so we can keep this great province moving forward. And this legislation helps in that respect, helps both employers, employees.

Also low income. We've also looked at the adjustment . . . [inaudible] . . . with minimum wage, different things along them lines. Worker safety, that's in the bill there. You know, the compensation Act, you know, we've rolled this in.

We've had, from what I understand from the Minister of Labour, now over 4,000 submissions — 4,000 submissions. So you know that the people of this great province are interested in

this bill because it does affect them, and they are putting their submissions in. So we've had plenty of time. The Minister of Labour has been working very hard to make sure that that has been done, that he's met with the groups, that they consulted and gathered the information, and now it's time for this bill to move forward so this province can move forward with the employees and the employers.

[11:45]

So I find it a little ironic that they're just making a motion saying, well just delay it till fall. But let's, you know, we want to get work done, and we need this province to grow. And we're being told by employers and employees, you know, keep this great province moving forward, and that's what we're doing with this piece of legislation. So that's why I'm hoping that the members opposite understand that as we move forward in that, Mr. Speaker.

You know, there's also legislation in this bill, has legislation to protect individuals searching for work. You know, then there is at times you will get, from recruitment service providers, that's starting to grow, there's legislation in here to deal with that. And we got that from the submissions that were dealt with this. That is in the Act, you know, working to protect workers.

And that's what this bill is. In it there's a reduction of the qualification period from maternity, parental, and adoption leave from 20 weeks to that . . . a recognition that no individual or group may be compensated differently on the grounds of anything prohibited, identified within the Saskatchewan human rights. So you know, it deals with the big picture.

It deals with all the employers and all the employees working together trying to make this a good place to work. Because when you talk to all businesses, I mean, you want to have your business grow. You have to treat your employees good. You have to work with them, and they have, all the businesses around my constituency. And when I door knock and we go into businesses, I mean, the employees are, you know, they work quite well with management to work together as the businesses grow. Because as the businesses grow, well so does their pensions, so does their wages, so does their benefits and the security that goes with that package of your employer and employee.

And I'll tell you what: you know, they talk about what's been happening. My office, I've had hardly anybody, I don't think I've had anybody really, talk against this legislation. They say, you know, we like what's been happening and how you're trying to work with employers and employees of bringing that group together. And they're working together as a group to help grow this great province as we keep moving forward.

You know, like I said, my constituency, I mean the jobs that have grown over the very number of years of any kind of job — service providers, whether it be in the potash industry and the side industries that go with it, you know, and also in the farming industry as it's been growing in all the value-added crops that are being grown, Mr. Speaker. You know, as this bill moves forward, I mean, it helps everything. It helps this province just as we keep moving forward and that is what this legislation speaks for. And you know, the Minister of Labour

has met with countless groups, poured over the submissions and did an excellent job . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Time for debate has expired. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Our government received over 4,000 submissions in relation to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. Furthermore the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety formed a minister's advisory committee. The new Saskatchewan employment Act is based upon extensive consultations with the committee along with a thorough review of the submissions.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the NDP have no credibility when it comes to consultations on labour legislation. To the member from Saskatoon Nutana, why did the NDP fail, fail to consult with affected groups when they amended *The Labour Standards Act* in 2001, *The Trade Union Act* in 2004, and *The Labour Standards Act* in 2006?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana?

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think what we're talking about here is the failure of this government to introduce legislation that makes sense for the working people of Saskatchewan. So the failure here is introducing legislation that will likely be challenged by the International Labour Organization. It's legislation that fails to meet the Charter requirements for the freedom of association. So that's what we're concerned about, is those kinds of failures in this legislation, the failure of this government to consider reasoned amendments and take some time to make it right. That's what we're worried about.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the other side. Of course we've seen this government conduct many styles of consultation, you know, whether it's branding of the cattle, the environmental code. In fact the environmental code, while we disagreed with it in many ways, took some time. And they went out and met with people, and to date it's been relatively well-received. In fact it took several years.

To the member from Carrot River: why the rush? Why the rush? He talked about population, everything else. Why can't we take a few extra months and make sure we get it right?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you. I'd like to thank the member for his question. And as I said before when I was talking about this bill, Mr. Speaker, we want to see things happen. We want to see Saskatchewan moving forward. If we're going to be like the NDP, nothing would ever happen in this province. So consequently we're moving this forward. It has been consulted on, and actually there's more than 3,800 submissions, Mr. Speaker. It's actually been up to 4,000 submissions. But you

know, the catch is, Mr. Speaker, the NDP didn't even make one submission, so they should not be talking. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And first of all, I'd like to thank the members opposite for agreeing that this is a piece of legislation that has to be passed this year. So thank you very much for agreeing with that.

Mr. Speaker, our government is proud of its record on labour legislation. Since '07 our government has increased minimum wage from 7.95 an hour to \$10 an hour. This is an increase of over 25 per cent over five years. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* will index minimum wage, which according to the member from Saskatoon Centre will, and I quote, ". . . take politics out of minimum wage increases." Now we see the same member requesting that we delay the index of the minimum wage by slowing down this bill.

Mr. Speaker, to the member from Saskatoon Riversdale: why did that NDP caucus insist upon delaying the index of minimum wage, something themselves they described as a victory to all people in Saskatchewan?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What we're talking about here is lost opportunities, Mr. Deputy Speaker, lost opportunities to not only support those employees who are making minimum wage, just not with wages but there are many ways to support employees, including family responsibility leave, including breaks for things like breastfeeding. What is a modern economy, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This is what our debate and our concerns are today, that this government has plowed ahead. And without really taking an opportunity, they've completed missed an opportunity to do some very good things here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. One of the things that we are really puzzled with here is why this government is rushing ahead and plowing through with this bill when they haven't yet fixed the problems with their last labour legislation. We see the essential services legislation has already been to the courts. We've already found out that they got it wrong because they didn't listen. They plowed ahead and passed bad law. And now here they are doing it again.

So my question is for the member from Carrot River Valley: why is your government stubbornly plowing ahead when you haven't yet fixed the essential services legislation?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — I want to thank the member for the question. And I would like to say, as I said in my previous answer, we have been moving forward on this because we want

to see Saskatchewan moving forward.

Most of Saskatchewan's labour legislation hasn't been reviewed in at least 20 years. Mr. Speaker, let's move this province forward. You know, we don't want to sit back forever like the previous administration did and not do anything, some of them dating back to the '40s. Mr. Speaker, let's move this province forward. We're not rushing at this but we're putting it on a good timeline. And I again ask, if the NDP was so concerned about it, why didn't they, why did they not submit anything on the 4,000 reports that came in?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

**Mr. Moe:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week the member from Saskatoon Riversdale quoted a section of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* which clearly indicates that employees are entitled to two consecutive days off each week. Moments later the same member asked the following question, and I quote, "So am I correct in saying that employees will no longer be entitled to two days off in a week?"

Mr. Speaker, clearly the NDP does not understand this new piece of legislation. So to the member from Saskatoon Riversdale: is the NDP requesting the delay of the passage of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* because your entire caucus needs time to sort out your confusion?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. What we'd like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're asking the government to slow down because we believe the people of Saskatchewan should have an opportunity to participate in creating a modern set of labour standards and other labour legislation. We believe the people of Saskatchewan . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. I'm having some difficulty hearing the member from Riversdale. The member from Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you. We want this government to listen to the people of Saskatchewan in a meaningful and thorough way, which involves actually meeting with them in person, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and encouraging public submission.

Let's take a page out of what the federal government did in 2005-2006 and put in a real consultation process. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. One of the problems we in the opposition have with this particular initiative from the members opposite is the way that consultation has been flawed top to bottom on this. The last time they got consultations so wrong on a piece of, or a suite of labour legislation, Mr. Speaker, we wound up getting a free trip

to the Supreme Court, which yet has to be fixed by that government. So with this piece of legislation we see as late as this week, the advisory council appointed by those members, the advice that the advisory council is referring, not being listened to. My question is to the member from Carrot River Valley: if they're going to appoint an advisory council, why don't they listen to their advice?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — I want to thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we — like I keep on saying, as I have said before — we are moving this province forward. We're working with the Saskatchewan advantage.

You know, this new Act, this new Act is going to be very simple for people to go through and look at, whether they're . . . It'll define the rights and responsibilities of employees, employers, and unions. This is what this Act is for: to make things simple so people can understand it. Even the people from across the aisle can actually go in there and understand it. It's going to be that simple. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, the new Saskatchewan employment Act streamlines 12 pieces of outdated labour legislation into one comprehensive document. The need to modernize Saskatchewan labour legislation was apparent, as most of our province's labour legislation hasn't been comprehensively reviewed in 20 years. In fact four Acts haven't been reviewed since the 1940s and '50s.

Mr. Speaker, the need for change is obvious, and our government is moving forward with this legislation. To the member from Saskatoon Riversdale: is the NDP requesting our government to delay passage of this Act because they failed to hand in their submission on time? Are they asking for an extension on their homework? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Time for the 75-minute debate has expired.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

#### **Motion No. 1 — Impact of Western Canadian Energy and Resource Boom on Central Canadian Manufacturing Sector**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Hickie.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to engage in this important debate. Mr. Speaker, I'll remind the Assembly:

That . . . NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's contention that the western Canadian . . . [resource sector and energy sector] is responsible for the decline in central Canada's manufacturing sector which Mr. Mulcair has referred to as Dutch disease.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a robust and dynamic natural resource sector. Our natural resource sector is one of the driving forces in our strong economy and provides many Saskatchewan people with jobs. This sector is also one of the reasons that there are more people working in Saskatchewan than ever before.

[12:00]

In 2009, Mr. Speaker, Canada's natural resources accounted for 11.1 per cent of total Canadian gross domestic product. The energy sector accounted for 6.7 per cent, mining 2.7 per cent, and forestry 1.8 per cent.

Canada's resource sector directly employed 759,000 people in that year. This accounted for 5.2 per cent of the total direct employment in Canada.

The resource sector accounted for 23.8 per cent of total capital investment in Canada in 2009, a dollar value of \$73.6 billion. The energy sector accounted for 20 per cent or \$62.2 billion. Mining accounted for 3.2 per cent or 9.8 billion. Forestry accounted for point five per cent or 1.6 billion.

Natural resource sector accounted for 46.7 per cent of Canada's total exports in 2009, a dollar value of \$168 billion, Mr. Speaker. Energy resources accounted for 21.6 per cent or \$77.9 billion. The value of mining exports was \$66.4 billion, 18.5 per cent of the Canadian total export value. Forestry accounted for 23.7 billion in exports, 6.6 per cent of the national total.

Saskatchewan merchandise exports are up 11 per cent over last January and were ranked number one in Canada. The dollar value of natural resource sector was \$133 billion in that year. For comparison purposes, the automotive sector followed with a gross domestic product value of 15.3 billion, and the chemical product sector had a gross domestic product of \$12.8 billion. Natural resource exports, which include energy, forestry, and mining, had a positive balance of trade of \$69.5 billion.

Saskatchewan's per capita energy production is the highest in Canada. We account for roughly one-quarter Canadian primary energy production, and this is no small achievement for a province with only 3 per cent of the Canadian population.

Saskatchewan's primary energy production comes from coal, oil, natural gas, hydro, uranium, wind, and biofuels. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada and one of the few jurisdictions in the world, Mr. Speaker, with commercial production from all these sectors. Mr. Speaker, we are also one of only four provinces in Canada that produces more energy than it consumes.

Just one of our natural resources . . . Uranium contributes to our strong economy. Saskatchewan's current uranium reserves are the energy equivalent of 19 billion barrels of oil or 4 billion tonnes of coal. Our province produces 17 per cent of the world

uranium, and the second largest producer in 2011 behind Kazakhstan. Saskatchewan has the richest uranium deposits in the world and some of the largest, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Uranium mines employ more than 3,000 people in Saskatchewan, over half of which are in the North. This is over 3,000 individuals who have the utilization of one of our natural resources, uranium, to thank for their job. Not only that but Saskatchewan producers have a very good record both on environmental protection and worker health and safety.

Our government's goal is to ensure a fair return on resources for Saskatchewan people while maintaining economic competitiveness with other producing jurisdictions. We've always supported Saskatchewan's natural resource sector, unlike the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker. In 1990 the NDP stated that uranium mining is something that the New Democratic Party does not approve of. Its policy is to slowly phase out all three Saskatchewan mines and prevent new ones from getting started.

Mr. Speaker, policies like that would mean 3,300 less jobs in Saskatchewan, and as I mentioned, more than half of those in the North. If we return to policies like that, Mr. Speaker, economic momentum in this province would cease. The cost of such policies is huge — the loss of direct and indirect jobs as well as the loss of revenue. That kind of mentality holds back growth. It holds back the benefits of growth like more jobs. The New Democrats don't seem to understand that with growth comes greater revenue for the province, and greater revenue enables the government to better support those most vulnerable among us. Peter Prebble, an NDP candidate in 2011, is quoted as saying, "The Saskatchewan sale of uranium overseas is an immoral act." Mr. Speaker, what's immoral is to deny 3,300 people jobs in this province.

Uranium is just one of our natural resources, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There are others that contribute significantly to our economy. Saskatchewan is home to 50 per cent of the world's potash reserves, and our potash industry directly employs over 4,500 individuals and contributes to the livelihood of many others. At current levels of demand, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan could supply the world demand for several hundred years. Saskatchewan's potash industry routinely accounts for roughly 30 per cent of the world's population.

Mr. Speaker, our natural resource sector employs people directly, but there are spinoffs, secondary and tertiary jobs that the sector supports. There are the individuals who work in a mine. Then there are the individuals who build the mine and the individuals who have the executive positions here in Saskatchewan, like Potash Corporation which has maintained many executive positions in this province. There are people who work at the coffee shops where the miners get their coffee, the individuals who work in retail where individuals who work in the natural resource sector purchase their clothing, or the car salesman, Mr. Speaker, the architects who design their houses, the servers in restaurants, and the list goes on and on.

Our natural resource sector also brings tax dollars into our province, tax dollars that support social programs and support individuals who are in need, social programs like SAID, the Saskatchewan assured income disability program that offers

financial support to individuals with disabilities.

The over 4,500 individuals the potash industry employs is just the start. Industry estimates project \$13 billion in expansion expected from now through 2020. BHP Billiton's Jansen project could be the largest mine in the world, employing over 1,000 people. K+S, an over \$3 billion investment will add 300 permanent jobs on top of the 1,000 construction jobs in the Bethune area. Potash demand is only going to increase due to an increase in world food demand and a growing world population. New expansions will be the first to market resulting in opportunities to capture more than the current world market share for Saskatchewan producers.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's population is at an all-time high. We're the second fastest growing province in Canada. The province's population has now increased for 22 consecutive quarters, and in the past five years, Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 80,000 people. People are coming to Saskatchewan because it's a great place to live, a great place to work. People are coming to Saskatchewan for the opportunities, and the resource sector is one of the areas that afford people those opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, our government wants to ensure that these opportunities continue. Saskatchewan has been rated as the best place in Canada for oil and gas investment based on the opinions of petroleum executives and the managers in the annual Fraser Institute survey. Saskatchewan is the second largest oil producer in Canada and the sixth largest oil producer among all American states and Canadian provinces. Saskatchewan has set a new record for the number of horizontal wells drilled in 2011 and broke that record in 2012. The 2012 figure was up 2 per cent over 2011, at 2,036.

2012 was also the best year on record for crude oil production, with an average of 473,000 barrels per day produced for a total of 172.9 million barrels. Saskatchewan's remaining oil reserves are currently estimated at 1.2 billion barrels. The industry invested an estimated \$4.7 billion in new exploration and development in Saskatchewan in 2012. The upstream oil and gas industry accounted for approximately 34,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2012, a 3 per cent increase over 2011. Revenue from the sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights for 2012 calendar year was \$105.7 million. The net effect of all this is predictable. When the oil patch is doing well, Saskatchewan is doing well.

According to the Petroleum Services Association of Canada, oil and gas drilling in Saskatchewan is expected to increase by 11 per cent. This is the highest percentage increase in the country. With a record of economic growth and one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada, Saskatchewan is a place of unparalleled opportunity. These opportunities include employment and educational opportunities.

The natural resource sector is training Saskatchewan residents, and we've invested a record \$2.8 billion in post-secondary education, including over \$46 million in funding for First Nations and Métis education and training. This represents a 20 per cent increase from the previous year.

The natural resource sector provides jobs to Saskatchewan

people, but it also provides educational opportunities including many for First Nations individuals. First Nations and Métis institutions such as the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Dumont Technical Institute, and the First Nations University of Canada are playing a leadership role in recruiting and training for many Saskatchewan Aboriginal students. Many of the programs these institutions offer link directly into our resource sector and their success of their students.

We have helped to ensure these institutions have the funding necessary to facilitate student success. We will continue to work with our partners across post-secondary system so that Saskatchewan students including First Nations and Métis students get the training they need to succeed in their careers.

As I indicated at the beginning of my speech, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a robust and dynamic resource sector. Our natural resource sector is one of the reasons we have a strong economy. Our natural resource sector is also one of the reasons why there are more people employed in Saskatchewan than ever before. And there is potential for growth — growth that would mean more jobs for the people of Saskatchewan, growth that would mean more educational opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan, growth that would mean greater prosperity for the people of Saskatchewan. This prosperity would benefit all of Saskatchewan including our First Nations populations.

The world is looking for energy security and food security. And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is poised to be a leader in these sectors. Our natural resource sector is an important part of our economy and provides the people of our province with a multitude of opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the world is looking at Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It is my duty pursuant to rule 26 to advise the Assembly that this item of business has been previously adjourned three times and that every question necessary to dispose of the motion will now be put. It has been moved by the member for Prince Albert Carlton:

That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's contention that the western Canadian energy and resource sector is responsible for the decline in central Canada's manufacturing sector which Mr. Mulcair has referred to as Dutch disease.

All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — The ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:12 until 12:18.]

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour please rise.

## [Yeas —43]

|            |              |            |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| Morgan     | Stewart      | Duncan     |
| Krawetz    | Boyd         | Eagles     |
| McMorris   | Cheveldayoff | Harpauer   |
| Toth       | Huyghebaert  | Doherty    |
| Marchuk    | Reiter       | McMillan   |
| Heppner    | Harrison     | Wyant      |
| Tell       | Elhard       | Hart       |
| Bradshaw   | Bjornerud    | Brkich     |
| Hutchinson | Makowsky     | Ottenbreit |
| Campeau    | Wilson       | Norris     |
| Ross       | Kirsch       | Michelson  |
| Doke       | Jurgens      | Steinley   |
| Hickie     | Lawrence     | Tochor     |
| Moe        | Parent       | Phillips   |
| Docherty   |              |            |

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed please rise.

## [Nays— 2]

Nilson                      McCall

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Mr. Speaker, members for, 43; members against, 2.

**The Speaker:** — The ayes have it. Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House now stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Monday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:21.]



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